



West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican is overcome with joy once Rahkeem Cornwall (R), who wreaked havoc on the Bangladesh batting with a match haul of nine wickets, took a tricky catch at first slip to deny Mehedi Hasan Miraz making a miraculous rescue act in the second Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'You just have to be patient'

SPORTS REPORTER

He has demanded the attention of world cricket since making his international debut in 2019 and Rahkeem Cornwall, affectionately known as Jimbo owing to his 180-kg frame, made another statement with his off-spin in the two-match Test series against Bangladesh. Cornwall bagged a total of

Nice. It's a series win in Asia since 2012 for the first time. Coming here without some players, with the protocols and so on. Very thankful to God for opportunity to captain West Indies. Boys stuck to their plans, they were very disciplined. Very proud of the boys. Means everything back home. Cricket means everything to us. People will be proud. People wrote us off. But we kept it simple, enjoyed it, and we proved them wrong.

**KRAIGG BRATHWAITE**  
WEST INDIES CAPTAIN

### HIGHLIGHTS

- This is Bangladesh's first whitewash at home since West Indies blanked them 0-2 in 2012-13 and overall Bangladesh's 15th whitewash in a series of two or more matches - eight more than any other team.
- This is only the fourth whitewash West Indies have inflicted on a home team. The last three have

been in Bangladesh. Before that, they had blanked England in a Five-Test series in 1984.

- It's also the first time in 65 years that all ten wickets have been taken by West Indies spinners in a Test innings (Brathwaite, Warrican, Cornwall). The last time was Christchurch 1956 (Valentine, Ramadhin, Smith).

nine wickets in the second Test, including four in the second innings to bundle Bangladesh out for 213 as hosts found themselves on the receiving end of a 2-0 series whitewash.

The 28-year-old kept troubling the Bangladeshi batters with tight line and length and ended up with the figures of four for 105 runs in the second innings.

He also took a brilliant catch at slip off the bowling of Jomel Warrican, diving in front to dismiss Mehedi Hasan Miraz, the final Bangladesh wicket to fall and the trigger for the visitors' celebrations to begin.

It was a first overseas series win since 2017 for West Indies and,

more importantly, it came when the visitors were without their top cricketers, who opted to skip the tour.

"I think it was a good performance. The whole team had a good energy from day one. The coaching staff backed us. Once the conditions give a bit of spin, I enjoy it," Cornwall said after the game.

The cricketer from Antigua announced himself by scalping ten wickets in a Test against Afghanistan in 2019, including a seven-wicket haul.

Cornwall utilised the bounce of the pitch and kept it simple by consistently bowling in the right areas and asking questions of the

Bangladeshi batsmen. He picked up a five-wicket haul in the warm-up game and, although he bagged just two in the first innings and three in the second innings of the first Test, his best was about to come.

A hungry Cornwall remained more disciplined with his bowling in the second Test in Mirpur and picked up his second five-wicket haul in the first innings as Bangladesh were bundled out for 296 runs, handing the visitors a healthy 113-run lead.

Coming into the fourth day, Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque became Cornwall's first victim, getting caught behind off a delivery that kept away and had the extra bounce to surprise the left-hander. He then got rewarded for bowling at the stumps, picking up the crucial wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim, Liton Das and Mohammad Mithun at important moments.

"I baked myself in and tried to put the ball in the right areas. You just have to be patient, be consistent and build pressure. I've been doing a lot of work in the morning in slip fielding. When the ball comes to me, I want to catch it," said the man-of-the-match.

## Batsmen add to causes for concern

SPORTS REPORTER



Bangladesh were whitewashed by the West Indies after losing the second Test, falling 17 runs short of a 219-run target. Having staged a dramatic comeback by bowling the Windies out for just 117 in their second essay, Bangladesh's batting was dismantled on the fourth day inside two sessions.

The Tigers were guilty of playing shots which signalled a desire to finish the chase inside those two sessions. Captain Mominul Haque said that the target was achievable, but felt their plans did not bear fruit or that they needed to be more concrete in terms of effectiveness.

Bangladesh had gone into the match thinking that all spinners would find favour in the pitch. That backfired and the Windies electing to bat first meant that the Tigers would have to bat in the fourth innings on a pitch that saw some sharp turners. But without getting into the pitch's nature, they mostly failed miserably in their approach to countering the Windies spin on a playable surface. In effect, it was the Tigers' mental approach that did not fit Test level mentality.

"I think the target was chaseable but we collapsed in the top and middle order and maybe that's why we didn't reach the target.

I don't think that in the four days we played, the wicket was that difficult at any time. In international cricket, you adjust if there is a difficult wicket. There was no odd bounce and maybe only Cornwall managed to get some bounce due to his height. But as batsmen and professional players, should have adjusted to that. We couldn't do that and that's why the game went out of our hands," Mominul said after the match.

Although they had found a good start through Tamim Iqbal, Bangladesh were guilty of shots fit for shorter-version cricket and their failings were in part due to wanting to finish the game in a hurry.

"Our batting broke and we couldn't return from that, neither in the first nor the second. There is no specific reason but we

### SCORES IN BRIEF

**West Indies:** First Innings-409 and second Innings -117 all out in 52.5 overs (Campbell 18, Bonner 38, Da Silva 20; Taijul 4-36, Nayeem 3-34, Mehedi 1-15, Javed 2-32)  
**Bangladesh:** First Innings-296 and second Innings 213 all out in 61.3 overs (Tamim 50, Mominul 26, Liton 22, Mehedi 31, extras 14; Cornwall 4-105, Warrican 3-47, Brathwaite 3-25)  
Result: West Indies won by 17 runs.  
Player-of-the-match: Rahkeem Cornwall.  
Player-of-the-series: Nkrumah Bonner.

couldn't make our plans a reality."

Without Shakib, one of the team's strike bowlers, the only available option was to add another pacer. Bangladesh played Soumya Sarkar as an opener although he was not part of the announced Test squad after the team management could not put their faith in Saif Hassan. Mohammad Mithun was picked in the eleven to bolster the batting but the team think-tank's mindset became a cause of fallibility.

"We didn't play positive cricket in the second innings," Mominul said. "We have to work on our issues and plan things. Without Shakib bhai, it becomes difficult to formulate the team combination. We had a few issues and we needed a medium pacer who could bat. Soumya has experience and also played the ODIs. That's why I picked him but when you lose, it appears that there is a lot lacking."

"I do think we have improved [in Tests] but we haven't improved a lot. But there is no end to improving."

Following the first Test, when they could not manage to defend 395 with the ball, the focus was only now shifting to batting as well as to other areas that need deeper contemplation.

"Batsmen have to make a habit of playing big innings and also batting for a long time. That's the most important," he concluded.

When you lose, it's disappointing. We have some positives like Miraz with bat and ball. Tajjul bowled really well. Tamim, Mushfiqur got fifties. When the openers were batting, we thought we can chase it. But the middle order collapsed badly. Miraz tried hard but we couldn't reach our goal. Shakib is a 2-in-1 player, so when we lose him, it's difficult as captain to get a combination that can balance the team.

**MOMINUL HAQUE**  
BANGLADESH CAPTAIN



## Mohammedan, Police stage brilliant fightbacks

SPORTS REPORTER

Mohammedan came from a goal down to bet Brothers Union 2-1 and registered their second successive victory in the Bangladesh Premier League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Joseph Nur gave winless Brothers a first-half lead but Amir Hakim Bappy and Suleymane Diabate scored in the second half to help sixth-placed Mohammedan to an excellent fightback.

In the day's first match of the day, Bangladesh Police FC displayed a dazzling performance in the second half as they came from three goals down to hold Chattogram Abahani to a 3-3 draw.

Following some erratic performances, Chattogram Abahani snuffed victory with a comfortable 3-0 lead early in the second half, but they faced tremendous pressure later from Police to concede three goals in the last 35 minutes.

In fact Police had gotten off to a great start in the match and enjoyed better ball possession but they could not make any inroads inside the Chattogram Abahani defence.

The port city outfit went for the lemon break with goals from Nixon Gylherme and Rakib Hossain, and the latter made it 3-0 after availing goalkeeper Mohammad Nehal's fumble in the 49th minute.

However, Police showed character and pulled back three goals, with Fredric Pooda and Lancine Tour heading two corners home while Ballo Famoussa converted a spot-kick three minutes into the stoppage time to snatch a point from 10-man Abahani.

## Halep avenges Paris defeat against Swiatek

REUTERS, Melbourne

Second seed Simona Halep survived an early wobble to beat Iga Swiatek 3-6 6-1 6-4 in the Australian Open fourth round on Sunday as the Romanian avenged her shock defeat by the Polish teenager at the same stage of last year's French Open.

After an error-prone opening set, Halep reeled off five consecutive games across



the second and third sets before sealing her 100th Grand Slam match win to set up an eagerly anticipated quarter-final clash with Serena Williams.

Swiatek, who knocked out Halep en route to her maiden Grand Slam title in Paris, used her booming groundstrokes to save two break points in the seventh game before immediately breaking the Romanian to love on her way to claiming the opening set.

Third seed Dominic Thiem slumped out of the Australian Open in lacklustre fashion yesterday, complaining of undisclosed physical issues after being thrashed 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 in the fourth round by Grigor Dimitrov. "A combination of some little physical issues, plus a real bad day, plus the fact that he's a great player... a result like that can happen," Thiem said. "I'm not a machine, sometimes I would like to be, but there are really, really bad days. As soon as you're not 100% at this level, then results like this come up, and that's exactly what happened today."



Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic came through a tough examination of his fitness as the top seed beat Canadian powerhouse Milos Raonic 7-6(4), 4-6, 6-1 6-4 yesterday to reach the quarter-finals.



Paris St Germain striker Moise Kean celebrates the winner against Nice during his side's 2-1 home win in Ligue 1 on Saturday while Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi celebrates his side's fourth goal during a 5-1 win against Alaves in a La Liga match. Messi scored with two scorching strikes as Barcelona hammered Alaves to warm up in style for their upcoming Champions League clash with Paris St Germain on Tuesday. "Messi is in a fantastic moment of form," said Barca coach Ronald Koeman. "We know how decisive he is and right now he is in the mood. With him playing in this form, everything is easier. If we want to beat PSG, we need Leo and everyone else at the top of their game."

PHOTO: TWITTER/REUTERS

## Ashwin puts India on top

REUTERS

India seized control of the second Test after their spinners wreaked havoc on a dustbowl and skittled out England for 134 at Chennai's MA Chidambaram Stadium yesterday.

The hosts finished day two on 54-1 for an overall lead of 249 runs on a deteriorating track.

Ashwin returned figures of 5-43 while Ishant and Patel claimed two wickets apiece. "Getting Joe Root as first test wicket must have been really special for him," Ashwin said of left-arm spinner Patel who also dismissed Moeen.

"It was a very important wicket in the context of where the game stands and also Moeen Ali. Those were good snares for a fellow's first game."

England assistant coach Graham Thorpe acknowledged his side would need a special effort to deny India victory.

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